

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink". CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, JAN. 15, 1952

Our Commons Representation

The value of having forward-looking and not backward representatives was illustrated strikingly in this Province under the Mathieson Government, when the Island's representation in the House of Commons was fixed at not less than four, (our number of Senators) and thus we did not suffer from subsequent redistribution, bills which would have reduced our Commons representation to two members. We are again saved by this farsighted action under the new redistribution bill which is to be presented at the next session of Parliament. Based on the 1951 census returns, its effect will be to increase the influence of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia while reducing that of the Prairie Provinces as well as of our sister Maritime Provinces.

Saskatchewan will be the hardest hit by redistribution. It lost population in 1941-51, falling from 895,992 to 829,175. This was a decline of about 7.5 per cent, but the political penalty is a cut of one-quarter in representation. The Province has twenty members in the present House of Commons. It will elect only fifteen to the next if the existing system is adhered to. That will be fewer MP's than Saskatchewan sent to Ottawa more than thirty years ago, in the 1917 election, when the Commons was considerably smaller than it is now.

Deploping the sharp decline of strength in the Prairie and Maritime Provinces, the Globe and Mail says it might be possible to fix a minimum representation for each Province, "just as a minimum of four is now set for Prince Edward Island." Seat quotas could still be calculated under the present plan; and, of course, no Province would gain over its basic figure unless its population warranted. This scheme would mean enlargement of the House and no doubt it would run into political pitfalls. The real trouble, of course, is the lack of a proper national policy which would stimulate the industrial growth of the provinces which have been lagging numerically behind.

Older citizens will recall that there were knockers in Premier Mathieson's time, even in his own cabinet. He went ahead in spite of them. He had a loyal lieutenant with him in the person of Judge Arsenault. They succeeded in having the concession gained for this Province written into the British North America Act, and it stands there today, our only safeguard against having our representation practically wiped out at Ottawa.

The Price Control Habit

A good rubbing with warm goose grease is still regarded by some folk as having distinct therapeutic value in alleviating ailments of the chest. Experience, and medical science, show, however, that what may help a slight touch of bronchitis may be utterly useless and even harmful in treating the more serious malady of tuberculosis.

It is the same way with price controls, which are foremost among the many nostrums being prescribed by countless economic quacks for the malady of inflation. A good healthy application of price controls, argue the CCF'ers and others, worked well enough during World War II. So, they argue, that is just what is needed today. All of which goes to show that price controls, like many other sedatives, can be habit-forming.

The trouble is, of course, to devise a way to make the patient submit to the cure. The Emperor Diocletian tried it in Rome about 301 A.D. The populace then, as now in Canada, was complaining bitterly about skyrocketing prices. So the Emperor, with a terrible blast against the greed of businessmen, artisans and farmers, issued an edict fixing prices and wages. This was done, he declared, "all for the general welfare." Capital punishment was to be inflicted upon violators.

Unfortunately, the Emperor found that his edict didn't work. Prices kept right on rising. Since everyone, one way or another, was asking a price either for his goods or services, enforcement became an administrative impossibility. Diocletian's law lacked the moral sanction which underlay price control in Canada during World War II. So, too, does price control today lack the moral sanction of the majority of the people of Canada, whose belief in its efficacy as a device for controlling inflation must exist before it can be expected to achieve any useful purpose.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The British Prime Minister has spoken to the people of this great Dominion, and now we know approximately what the future holds out for us.

A lot of water will have to pass down our drains and into our wells and streams before the great snow storm of 1952 is forgotten.

It was an old-time custom to ring the city bell to intimate there would be no school in stormy weather. The radio readily takes its place, and should be used for the benefit of all concerned.

The mosquito is even more of a villain than formerly thought, according to the result of investigations using radio-active isotopes. It seems that the creatures ordinarily live on nectar of flowers and drink blood merely because they like it—and because it makes them even more of a nuisance.

The feed grain shortage predicted for the United States will no doubt be felt also in this country. Success or otherwise of the Government's policy of encouraging the production and storage of feed will have a very important bearing on the financial position of farmers next year.

Some coal merchants assure us it was through no fault of theirs that in certain quarters there was a shortage of reserves recently. Their orders were despatched in ample time, but unfortunately, for some reason or other, they were not filled as promptly as customarily.

The news that the U. N. has set up a disarmament commission may seem to accord very badly with the present trend of increasing armaments. What is now being established, however, is the reliability of collective security, which when firmly established will make the maintenance of such a vast scale of arms unnecessary.

One of the advantages of having the Island fully dieselized by the C. N. R. as it is that able and ambitious railwaymen from this Province will be well to the fore in experience with the latest equipment and be well qualified for promotion offered in any part of the system.

Lady Hamilton, nee Emma Lyon, died this date 1815. Of humble origin, her extraordinary good looks brought her many admirers. The paintings of her by Romney, a rival of Sir Joshua Reynolds, are very well known. It is because her name is linked with that of Nelson, however, that she is remembered.

The breakdown of telephone and telegraph service due to the storm gives us an inkling of how much we depend on fast service nowadays, and how much we suffer from its interruption. A missing train to Murray Harbour is as nothing compared with the loss of funeral connection on the part of loved ones preparing to pay their last respects to the dead.

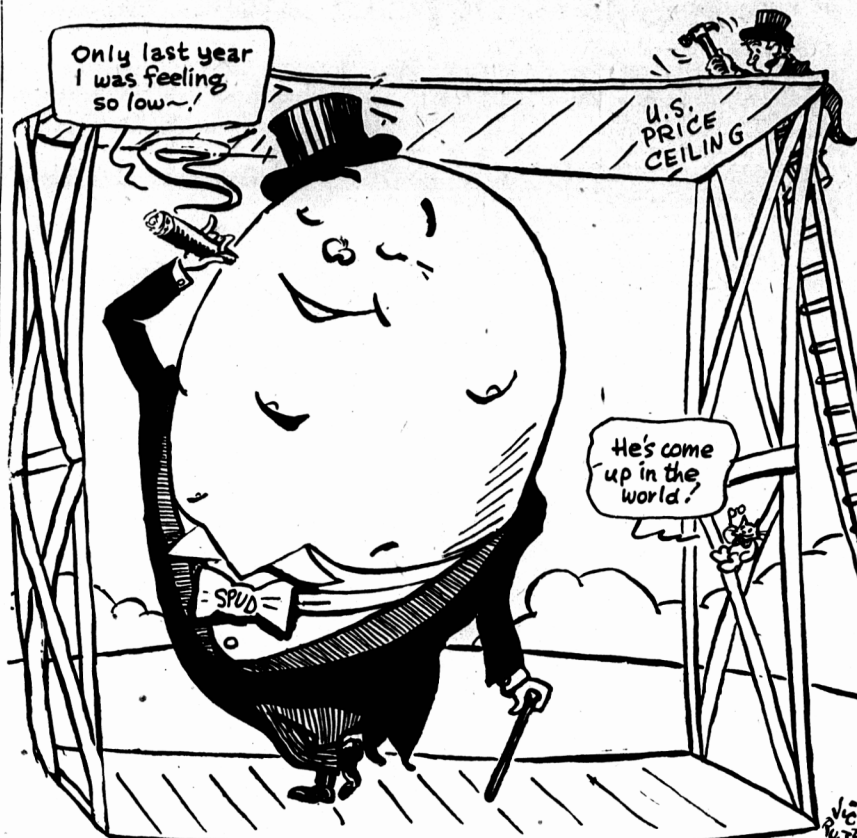
An across-the-board wage increase of 15 cents per hour featured the offer made by Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited, recently to the negotiating committee of Local 200 UAW-CIO. Mr. Rhys M. Sale, president, said the wage boost was included among a number of proposals made by the company in an effort to bring about a speedy end to current negotiations.

Mrs. (Dr.) Victor Goodwill's name was almost a household word in connection with good works in the community. Personally of a quiet, retiring disposition, she did not appear much in public, but she was always there in the interest of the cause that needed assistance and the wrong that needed resistance. She and her late husband were a most worthy pair and held in the highest esteem in the community. When shall we see their like again?

Average farmer's income in 1951 did not amount to \$300 per week as claimed, but to \$300 per month which is quite a difference. This, too, was reckoned by the powers-that-be as "cash returns", but of course it should be described as from "cash crops", which does not mean the producer received that amount, but only that was what it represented per capita for some 9,000 farmers.

"Men who desire power are seldom of a warm and humanly affectionate disposition, the longing for fame and the longing for love... being competitive and usually irreconcilable," writes Mr. Heskell Pearson in his newly published biography of Dizzy. "Disraeli was one of the rare exceptions in history of a man who hungered for fame and won it, yet could not exist without love." Pearson has done an excellent job of portraying this "rare exception in history".

You'd Hardly Know Him Now



PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

DRAMA FESTIVAL FINALS

Sir, — An unusual opportunity is offered to theatre goers in Prince Edward Island by the selection of St. John, New Brunswick, for the holding of the Dominion Drama Festival Finals the week beginning next April 28th. During that week there will be performed the eight best full-length plays chosen from the Regional Festivals to be held this winter in the thirteen regions across Canada.

That week the audiences will see the best in the live theatre produced in Canada. While the competing groups are almost exclusively amateur as in our local dramatic organizations, professional actors are not debarred and may be found performing in some of the plays. Advertisement for the ticket sale will appear in due course but booklets of tickets covering the series of eight plays are now available.

The holding of the Finals Festival is a major undertaking for any community. It involves provision for the production of their plays by eight groups from different parts of the Dominion with of course the billeting and entertainment of the members of each. The annual Court of the Board of Governors of the Dominion Drama Festival is held at the same time and place as this Festival.

This is the first time the Finals have been held in the Maritimes and St. John is sparing no effort to show that down by the sea we can produce a Festival to compare favourably with those held anywhere in Canada. It will probably be years before we again have a Finals Festival so near home. Next year it is to be held in Victoria, British Columbia.

I am, Sir, etc., H.L. PALMER, Charlottetown.

A GOLDEN AGE

Sir—Speaking in Toronto before the Junior Board of Trade, Hon. George Drew said that "Canada stands on the rim of a golden age" and further, that the production of iron ore and manufacture of steel will be the means of realizing this "age of gold". Mr. Drew has spoken the truth, except for the fact that there are some difficulties in the way of this high attainment. Possibly through the loss of Christianity and our Democracy, the latter being the product of the former, our natural products may become of little value to us.

It has been prophesied that the next 50 years will witness more advancement in the realm of the spirit, than in material discovery. For instance, a good chemist and scientist in Montreal has quit telling people what to eat in order to keep well, but now gives all his time to advising us as to what we should think. Let me add that for this he makes no charge. He says, as a man thinketh, so is he. He is able to trace the cause of such ailments as arthritis, neuritis, heart disease, open sores and so forth, to "negative" thinking, or holding on to fear, worry, resentment, hatred and so forth. When these evils are cast out and replaced by "positive thinking" then the body

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Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) STREET IMPROVEMENTS

"It gives us pleasure to note that neat boards on which the names of our streets are painted are being put up at the street corners. These mark another forward step... Mr. P. G. Fraser, druggist, has erected a new building at Dalrymple's corner in the place of the shop recently burnt. City Engineer McKinnon is also adding another story to his premises on Queen Street. These improvements will add to the appearance of the city... The fox-skin that so long graced McCraith's Corner has been taken in. This also adds to the appearance of the city." —The Examiner, April 8, 1878

Motives Behind Soviet Diplomacy

Soviet statesmen, like chess players or generals, always aim to conceal the purpose of their movements. It is, I suppose, a natural enough result of their "dialectic" philosophy, which regards all relations as conflicts between opposites. Soviet diplomatic moves are precluded by no public discussion and are accompanied by a minimum of explanation. Their significance and their object have to be guessed.

The Poet's Corner

STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING Whose woods these are I think I know. His house is in the village though; He will not see me stopping here To watch his woods fill up with snow. My little horse must think it queer To stop without a farmhouse near Between the woods and frozen lake The darkest evening of the year. He gives his harness bells a shake To ask if there is some mistake. The only other sound's the sweep Of easy wind and downy flake. The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep. —Robert Frost

YOUR POSSESSIONS

The things you live with—your home, your business, your "stock in trade"—are all subject to loss through accident or circumstances beyond your control. For your own sense of security, you should learn how easily you can be protected. We will be glad of an opportunity to serve you.

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Notes By The Way

Mr. Churchill is too wily a bird to be caught with his opinions down about the U. S. presidential picture. Asked about Eisenhower's announcement, the British Prime Minister said "You are going to have an election are you? We had one the other day." And nobody can take exception to that. — Ottawa Journal.

Every man gets involved in dish-washing at some point in his married life. But he always does so with the thought, spoken or implied, that he's making a good fellow of himself, and if he didn't want to do dishes, he didn't have to. In other words, a man feels he has a freedom of choice. In respect to dish-washing, whether to exercise it or not. Quite possibly he knows in his heart that he wouldn't dare use this right of choice, but it is important to his self-respect that there be some escape from dishpan serfdom. It's far easier to bear such chains and shackles if one feels they are self-imposed and can in an emergency be shed. — Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

A Detroit restaurant owner was \$100 in the red after a week's operation at present price levels. So he decided to wage a one-man battle of his own against inflation. He cutted off an old 1939 menu and started serving meals at the prices specified thereupon.

Russo-Japanese war in 1904. That aim includes Russian control over Manchuria and Russian control over Korea, or as much of Korea as possible.

That, beyond a doubt, is the long-term objective. And, that being so, the obvious immediate objective would be to bring North Korea again, as from 1945 to 1950, under complete Soviet control. The North Korean army, it may be noted in passing, is unlike the Chinese army, completely Russian-trained, Russian-equipped and Russian-dominated, and has remained so during the war.

To that end, it becomes for the Russians quite as important that the Chinese should withdraw from North Korea, as that the U. N. forces should withdraw from the south. Russia, as Stalin once remarked, pursues her own interests and no one else's. And that makes it very desirable, from the Kremlin's point of view, that she should get into the armistice negotiations as soon as possible before they are completed. Hence the at-first-sight rather curious Vyshinsky move.

In a seven-day period he cleared \$500 by charging 1939 prices. "What I lose in margin I more than make up in volume," he reported. That's one restaurant owner's story. His cash register jingles. He blazed a trail and the customers are beating a well-trodden path to his door. — Sydney Post-Record.

Somewhere in the rugged hills above Exit Lake, about 60 miles north-east of Vancouver, there is "a hideous, rock-bound creek whose bed is lined with gold," according to the old legend of the Squamish Indians. The are said to be "as big as walnuts." And death guards the treasure-trove. For in the last century or so at least 21 white men have set out to seek the Lost Creek Mine and have never returned. The only Indian still living who knows the secret is the 79-year-old chief of the Squamish braves, August Jack Khatsahlano. The legend has the mine discovered in 1880 by a tough Indian named Old Samach, who whispered the secret to his son a few minutes before he died on the scaffold at New Westminster for the murder of a half-breed back in 1861. That secret has been well kept — Hamilton Spectator.

A British seaman, possibly suffering from a heavy cold, stole a 12-bottle case of rum the other day from a warehouse in a B. O. Liquor commission. In short order the sailor was arrested and hauled into court, charged with theft of goods valued at more than \$25. But the magistrate knew a thing or two. Evidence showed that although the commission intended to charge the public \$58.68 for the rum, the actual cost of the beverage to the commission was only \$8.08. Apparently the commission makes a neat little profit on its claim—no loss leader it. If an ordinary business man marked up his goods in this fashion he would in all likelihood find himself the chief explainer at a Government enquiry. The magistrate probably had difficulty deciding who was robbing whom. — Winnipeg Tribune.

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